

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 058185
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 058185

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, TZ

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT NYERERE ON CURRENT SITUATION IN ZAIRE

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 1082

YOU SHOULD SEEK URGENT APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT NYERERE

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AND CONVEY FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO HIM FROM USG:

1. WE APPRECIATE FACT THAT PRESIDENT NYERERE HAS TAKEN
INITIATIVE TO DISCUSS PRESENT SITUATION IN ZAIRE WITH
US. FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED AT
DEVELOPMENT WHICH RAISES SPECTRE OF THE WORST DAYS OF
THE OLD CONGO CIVIL WAR, IN WHICH KATANGAN SEPARATIST

MOVEMENT PLAYED SUCH A CONSPICUOUS ROLE. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT WHAT COULD BE AT STAKE HERE IS NOT SIMPLY THE STABILITY OF ZAIRE BUT ALSO ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. NYERERE IS SURELY MORE SENSITIVE THAN WE TO THE DELETERIOUS EFFECT SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD HAVE ON OTHER NATIONS IN AFRICA AND ON THE WHOLE FABRIC OF AFRICAN POST-COLONIAL TRADITION.

2. WE HAVE BEEN AWARE OF ANGOLA'S CONCERN OVER CONTINUING INSURGENT ACTIVITY BOTH IN THE NORTH AND IN CENTRAL

"

ANGOLA, BUT WE WOULD NOTE THAT THE PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE TO PEACE IN ANGOLA IS THE RELUCTANCE OF ITS PRESENT AUTHORITIES TO WORK TOWARD RECONCILIATION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF A MAJOR SEGMENT OF THE POPULATION.

3. WE VERY MUCH AGREE THAT MOBUTU AS WELL AS NETO MUST NOW LEARN TO LIVE IN PEACE AS FELLOW AFRICANS. THIS SUGGESTS TO US THAT OTHER INTERESTED AFRICANS MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER LENDING A HELPING HAND IN THIS PROCESS. WE WOULD WELCOME NYERERE'S THOUGHTS ON WHETHER THIS MIGHT BE A USEFUL COURSE TO PURSUE, AND IF HE IS THINKING ABOUT TALKING TO SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES ABOUT IT. THE PROBLEM BETWEEN ZAIRE AND ANGOLA, WHATEVER ITS CAUSES, WILL NOT SIMPLY GO AWAY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME CONSIDERATION OF TRYING TO GET THEM TOGETHER TO DISCUSS THEIR DIFFERENCES. WOULD THIS BE FEASIBLE FROM NYERERE'S POINT OF VIEW?

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4. NYERERE WILL BY NOW HAVE HEARD OF OUR LIMITED RESPONSE TO MOBUTU'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE. WE ARE SENDING NON-COMBAT EQUIPMENT, I.E., BACK PACKS, FOOD RATIONS, MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND SPARE PARTS FOR TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT. WE HAVE NOT PROVIDED ANY COMBAT EQUIPMENT. OUR DECISION TO RESPOND WAS BASED ON NUMEROUS INDICATIONS THAT THE INCURSION FROM ANGOLA IS MORE THAN JUST RETALIATORY, AND THAT THERE IS A REAL THREAT TO THE STABILITY OF ZAIRE.

5. WE WOULD WELCOME NYERERE'S FURTHER THOUGHTS ON THIS SITUATION.

VANCE

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NNN

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